

March Second

20-----04

The regular March Meeting of Council was held on the above date at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located on the Fourth floor of the Municipal Building. The following Council Members were present: Ruby B. Archie, P. A. "Pete" Castiglione, Jr., E. Stokes Daniels, Jr., Mayor John C. Hamlin, T. David Luther, Albert K. "Buddy" Rawley, Jr., Sherman M. Saunders, and Vice-Mayor R. Wayne Williams, Jr. (8). H. Phillip Smith was absent (1).

Staff members present were City Manager Jerry L. Gwaltney, Deputy City Manager M. Lyle Lacy, III, Assistant City Manager for Utilities Joseph C. King, Finance Director Aubrey D. Dodson, Interim City Attorney W. Clarke Whitfield, Jr., and Clerk of the Council Annette Y. Crane, CMC.

Other Staff members present were Economic Development Director Ron Bunch, Information Technology Director Kerry Goode, GIS Director Inez Pollok, and Research and Marketing Director Renee' Wyatt.

Mayor Hamlin presided.

#### **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Castiglione offered the Invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS**

Mayor Hamlin recognized Nestle' Plant Manager Don Nodvedt. Mr. Nodvedt presented a report regarding a Chamber of Commerce Program for new plant managers. He said the organization is under the chamber umbrella and deals only with plant managers and CEOs. Members meet quarterly and membership consists of organizations with fifty (50) or more employees mainly in the fields of manufacturing and distribution. He invited anyone who meets the above criteria to come be a part of the group. Guest speakers inform members of community activities and expectations and how their respective companies can partner with those activities. Mr. Nodvedt said the program provides an excellent source of information for business leaders in the City.

Mr. Nodvedt called attention to a 2004 Community Resource Guide and Membership Directory that had been distributed to Council Members and Staff.

Mayor Hamlin thanked Mr. Nodvedt for the excellent report and expressed appreciation for every effort by Mr. Nodvedt towards moving the City forward.

Danville-Pittsylvania Chamber of Commerce President Laurie Moran called attention to a welcome package developed by the Chamber that had been placed at the desk of

Council Members and staff. Ms. Moran reviewed materials in the package that is available to newcomers to the City. The folder contains general information, education and employment opportunities, government and taxes, area demographics and a welcome to Southside Virginia insert.

Mayor Hamlin thanked Ms. Moran for the update on Chamber activities and most especially for the excellent welcome package.

Mayor Hamlin recognized the Executive Director of the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research Tim Franklin. Dr. Franklin updated Council on activities of the Institute. He said there had been a tremendous amount of technology invested in the building, which is what sets the Institute apart from other learning sources. The firm that created the technology for the building is an international firm that had done five of the last six Olympic games. This is an example of the scale of the enterprise the firm had been undertaking. Officials of the firm said there in the Southeastern part of the United States there would not be ten buildings that will have the sophisticated technology integration as the Institute. He said it was his desire that the Institute would be a source of hope and dreams for individuals for a long time.

Dr. Franklin advised the only other conference rooms in the country that is as sophisticated are some of those at Microsoft in Seattle, Washington. The mission for programs at the Institute is strategic research and technology transfer, advanced learning, outreach programs, conference center activities and the technology infrastructure development.

Dr. Franklin reported that to date, there are over forty (40) conferences booked at the Institute, which will involve 7,000 people. The conferences will all take place before the end of the fiscal year and is available for community booking.

Mayor Hamlin thanked Dr. Franklin and staff for getting the Institute moving. He advised there would be an official grand opening in June.

City Manager Gwaltney said there would be open houses in April, one to be hosted by City Council and the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors for the entire community.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS**

Mayor Hamlin recognized Rev. Cecil Bridgeforth. Rev. Bridgeforth said that he was excited about the presentations by Mr. Nodvedt, Dr. Franklin, and Ms. Moran. He said that he was appalled that, in view of all the good things happening in Danville, there were still homes in poor neighborhoods of the City that are without running water and bathroom facilities. He advised that the tenants who rent the homes have approached the slum landlords about repairs, but the requests have been ignored. Rev. Bridgeforth asked if there were any laws in the City Code that would force the landlords to upgrade the rental homes.

Council Member Luther said everything he had heard from Rev. Bridgeforth violates the State Landlord-Tenant Act. Mr. Luther wondered if citizens knew the process for reporting these violations. Interim City Attorney Whitfield agreed to speak with the Inspections Director and advise Mr. Luther of his findings.

At the request of Vice-Mayor Williams, City Manager Gwaltney and Interim City Attorney Whitfield agreed to investigate these matters and communicate such with Rev. Bridgeforth.

Rev. Bridgeforth expressed concern about the DanChem situation and said he hoped that chemicals were being handled so as to not place the employees and surrounding neighborhoods in danger.

Mayor Hamlin thanked Rev. Bridgeforth for bringing his concerns to City Council.

### **MINUTES**

Upon Motion by Council Member Daniels and second by Council Member Archie, Minutes of the February 17, 2004 Council Meeting were approved as presented. Draft copies had been submitted to Council Members prior to the Meeting.

### **BUDGET ADOPTION-FY 2003-04-ESSEL PROPACK EXPANSION INCENTIVE**

Upon Motion by Council Member Luther and second by Council Member Daniels, Ordinance No. 2004-02.06 presented by its First Reading on February 17, 2004 amending the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Budget Appropriation Ordinance by increasing revenues from the Tobacco Regional Opportunity Fund, the Governor's Opportunity Fund, and a City Technology Enhancement Grant for the Essel ProPack Expansion Incentive Package for a total appropriation of \$275,000 and appropriating the same was adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0  
AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders,  
and Williams (8).  
NAY: None (0).  
ABSENT: Smith (1).

### **TOBACCO INDEMNIFICATION APPLICATION – 2004**

Council Member Archie moved the adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-03.01

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE 2004 APPLICATION TO THE TOBACCO INDEMNIFICATION AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Luther and adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0  
AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders,  
and Williams (8).  
NAY: None (0).  
ABSENT: Smith (1).

**HEARING-VACATE RIGHT-OF-WAY-ARLINGTON STREET**

Mayor Hamlin opened the floor for a Public Hearing to consider vacating and abandoning an unopened right-of-way on Arlington Street. Notice of the Public Hearing had been duly published in the Danville Register and Bee on February 17 and 24, 2004. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Council Member Daniels moved the adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2004-03.01

AN ORDINANCE VACATING AND ABANDONING A CERTAIN UNOPENED PORTION OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY ON ARLINGTON STREET.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Rawley and adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0  
AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders,  
and Williams (8).  
NAY: None (0).  
ABSENT: Smith (1).

**HEARING-VACATE & CONVEY RIGHT-OF-WAY-NEW INGRAM ROAD**

Mayor Hamlin opened the floor for a Public Hearing to consider vacating and conveying an unused right-of-way on New Ingram Road. Notice of the Public Hearing had been duly published in the Danville Register and Bee on February 17 and 24, 2004. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Council Member Archie moved the adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2004-03.02

AN ORDINANCE VACATING AND CONVEYING 0.065 ACRE OF THE UNUSED RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED ON NEW INGRAM ROAD.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Castiglione and adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0  
AYE: Archie, Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Rawley, Saunders,  
and Williams (8).  
NAY: None (0).  
ABSENT: Smith (1).

### **BUDGET AMENDMENT-FY 2003-04-LEAD SAFE HOMES PROGRAM**

Upon Motion by Council Member Castiglione and second by Vice-Mayor Williams, an Ordinance entitled:

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2004-03.03**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2003-2004 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A GRANT FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE LEAD SAFE HOMES PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$467,392

was presented by its First Reading, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

In response to Council Member Daniels, Community Development Director Jerry Fischer advised that the program for lead safe homes would be administered similar to the rehabilitation program through the Housing Division. Mr. Fischer said current Inspections employees have received certification for determining which homes need rehabilitation due to unsafe levels of lead. Any work required to be done will be contracted out for repairs. The Housing and Community Development grant will provide funds for administering the program.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications from the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, Interim City Attorney and City Clerk.

### **ROLL CALL**

Council Member Archie advised that she was still receiving telephone calls about the future of the Worsham Street Bridge. Mrs. Archie also reported that she had taken part in Dr. Seuss' Birthday activities at Johnson School. She read "Oh, the Places You Will Go" to the children.

Council Member Castiglione announced that on March 19, Secretary of Education Dr. Belle S. Wheelan will be in Danville. Danville Community College and other participants

from Pittsylvania and Halifax Counties will be hosting a Counselor's Workshop at which Dr. Wheelan will be speaking. The Workshop will be held at the Ramada Inn Stratford Conference Center. Dr. Wheelan will be given a tour of the Institute before returning to Richmond.

Mayor Hamlin thanked City Manager Gwaltney and Economic Development Director Ron Bunch for compiling the initiative for EsselProPack. The industry has been in Danville for only two years and is already in the process of expansion that will provide approximately fifty (50) additional jobs.

Council Member Luther commended Council Member Daniels for standing for re-election during the May 4 election. Mr. Luther reported he was at Glenwood School today for the Dr. Seuss activities there. Mr. Luther enjoyed "Green Eggs and Ham."

Mr. Luther reported the Boys and Girls Club would be hosting a fund raising dinner on March 15 at the Institute Conference Center. This will be one of the first of its kind at the Institute.

Council Member Rawley wished good luck to the GWHS Lady Eagles, who will be playing the #1 team in the State. This is part of the quarterfinals in the State Tournament.

Vice-Mayor Williams advised that there would be a number of Council appointments coming up in June. He encouraged citizens to take part in City government by volunteering for service on a Board or Commission.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M.

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MAYOR

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CLERK